

**ABSTRACT**

A sentence or text based input utterance is prepared into word-string candidates each based on one to several words, starting from the beginning of a sentence. The candidates are displayed. A user is allowed to successively select and fix a candidate, to prepare a candidate for the following utterance on the basis of the selected candidate. The present invention is a text input method and apparatus adapted to repeat these processes. This eliminates the necessity to keep a memory space for search taking account of a number of combinations of word-string candidates, thus greatly reducing the storage capacity. Reduction is also possible in speech-recognition process amount. These makes possible apparatus size reduction. Furthermore, the user who is allowed to input one or more continuous utterances is free from troublesomeness as encountered in word-based input.